

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 040519 TOSEC 040108

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 040519 TOSEC 040108

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL RPT GEORGETOWN 333 ACTION SECSTATE 17 FEB.

QUOTE

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 0333

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GUYANESE FONMIN WILLS

REF: STATE 037651

1. WILLS ASKED ME TO COME OVER FOR A CHAT ON HIS FIRST DAY BACK IN OFFICE FEB 16. WE TALKED FOR 90 MINUTES. HIS MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO REVIEW WITH ME HIS IMPRESSION OF HIS MEETING LAST WEEK WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO INDICATE THAT HE WISHED TO CONTINUE THE FREQUENT, WIDE-RANGING AND FRANK TALKS WE HAVE HAD OVER THE LAST PAST NINE MONTHS.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP--WILLS SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH THE TENURE OF HIS TALK WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE SAID HE THOUGHT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 040519 TOSEC 040108

THE FRANKNESS OF THEIR DISCUSSION SERVED TO CLEAR THE AIR AND THAT

HE HOPED HE WOULD HAVE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN THE SAME KIND OF DIALOGUE WITH THE SECRETARY. IN THE MEANTIME HE SHARED THE SECRETARY'S BELIEF THAT DIALOGUE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND GEORGETOWN AND HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE IF I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM AND I COULD COUNT ON AN OPEN, STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND DISPASSIONATE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WILLS SAID OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAD OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND WERE FREQUENTLY MOVING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, BUT THAT THIS SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE AN HONEST DIALOGUE WHICH HE HOPED WOULD LEAD TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHERS POSITIONS AND AVOIDANCE OF A CONFRONTATION.

3. UN--WILLS DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY'S GENERAL EXPOSITION VERY MUCH AS IN REFTEL. HOWEVER HE SAID HE HAD POINTED OUT THAT USG WAS AT LEAST IN PART TO BLAME FOR VOTE ON ZIONISM SINCE GUYANA, ALONG WITH INDIA AND OTHER MEMBERS, HAD OFFERED TWO FACE-SAVING ALTERNATIVES TO VOTE ON OFFENSIVE ARAB RESOLUTION ONLY TO BE TOLD BY AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN THAT NEITHER ALTERNATIVE WAS ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THE US NEEDED TO HAVE VOTE ON THE OBJECTIONABLE RESOLUTION FOR QUOTE DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS UNQUOTE. WHEN I INTERPOSED THAT I THOUGHT THE VOTE BY GUYANA ON THE KOREAN RESOLUTIONS HAD BEEN MUCH MORE TRAUMATIC FOR US AND REITERATED REASONS THEREFOR, WILLS SAID KOREAN VOTE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONED IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY. HE DID HOWEVER PROFESS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT UNHAPPY WITH GOG VOTE VN KOREAN ITEMS AND TO HAVE FELT GUYANESE PERMREP JACKSON HAD BOTH STRETCHED HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND FAILED TO COMMUNICATE ADEQUATELY WITH WILLS ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID ONE OF THE THINGS HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED DURING HIS MOST RECENT VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON WAS TO LAY DOWN MORE PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS AND REACH A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING WITH JACKSON ON WHAT HE EXPECTED IN WAY OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND NEW YORK.

4. ANGOLA--WILLS MERELY COMMENTED THAT THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND GUYANESE VIEW OF ANGOLA SITUATION WAS OVER SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. AMERICANS, HE SAID, SIMPLY WERE UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THE DEPTH OF GUYANESE FEELING ON SOUTH AFRICA.

5. CUBA--WILLS SAID THAT SINCE HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY HE HAD RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE WHICH LED HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 040519 TOSEC 040108

THE CUBANS WOULD NOT STOP AT THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF ANGOLA BUT WOULD CONTINUE THEIR OPERATIONS INTO NAMIBIA AND, DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS THEREAFTER, POSSIBLY INTO SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. HE SAID HE WAS GIVING THIS INFORMATION TO US IN CONFIDENCE AND WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS HE SPOKE WITH AIR OF CONVICTION. HE ADDED THAT ACCORDING TO SOURCES HE CONSIDERED RELIABLE THE CUBANS ARE PRESENT IN MOZAMBIQUE (POSSIBLY NOT IN UNIFORM), WHERE THEY ARE NOW GIVING TRAINING TO BOTH SWAPO AND ZIMBABWE FIGHTERS.

6. CUBAN TRANSIT THROUGH GUYANA--WILLS CLEARLY GOT THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE ON THIS QUESTION. HE STILL PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF CUBAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR TROOPS ABOARD ANY FLIGHTS TRANSITTING TIMEHRI AIRFIELD. I POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS ABSENCE THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD QUOTE WHISPERING UNQUOTE DISCUSSION AROUND GEORGETOWN ABOUT THE VISIT OF THE CUBAN TANKER AND INSTALLATION OF A NUMBER OF CUBAN SUPPLIED FUEL TANKS AT TIMEHRI ALONG WITH THE TWO TANK TRUCKS. I SAID THE PRESENCE OF ALL THESE ELEMENTS HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY GOVERNMENT PUBLIC STATEMENT, THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD SPECULATION AS TO PURPOSE FOR WHICH TANKS AND TANK TRUCKS, AND PRESUMABLY FUEL, WERE INTENDED. WILLS LAMELY SAID THIS HAD ALL HAPPENED AFTER HIS DEPARTURE AND HE WAS STILL AWAITING DETAILED INFORMATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. HE WOULD HOWEVER REITERATE HIS ASSURANCES ABOUT GUYANA NOT ALLOWING ITSELF TO BE USED AS A BASE FOR SOVIET, CHINESE OR CUBAN OPERATIONS.

7. RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA--WILLS SAID HE HAD RAISED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER THE CONCERN FELT BY THE PM AND HIMSELF OVER RECENT ACTIVITIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF GUYANA'S FRONTIERS WITH BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA AND THEIR FEAR EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE LARGE NEIGHBORS MIGHT HAVE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. HE SAID HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN ASSURANCE THAT USG WOULD NOT QUOTE ENCOURAGE UNQUOTE EITHER VENEZUELA NOR BRAZIL IN ANY ATTEMPT BY THEM TO INTERFERE IN GUYANA. WILLS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHY SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD AVOIDED DIRECT RESPONSE SAYING THAT USG HAD NO EVIDENCE OF AGGRESSIVE INTENT ON THE PART OF EITHER COUNTRIES. WILLS ADDED THAT THE ABSENCE OF AN ASSURANCE ON OUR PART COULD NOT BE MISTAKEN.

8. OTHER TOPICS ARE REPORTED IN SEPTELS.

KREBS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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